(c) the stand taken by each State Government on the issue; and

(d) the steps being taken to arrive at a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) In pursuance of the Supreme Court's directions, the Govt. of India appointed an Expert Committee in 1993 to specify the basis, applying the relevant and requisite socio-economic criteria to exclude socially advanced persons/sections (creamy layer) from Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The Expert Committee submitted its report in March, 1993 specifying the criteria for identification of socially advanced persons amongst OBCs. Based on these recommendations, the Govt. of India issued Office Memorandum on 8th Sept., 1993 specifying the criteria for determining the creamy layer among OBCs. The constitution of a Review Committee is under the consideration of the Govt.

Rehabilitation of destitute old

580. MISS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any immediate plan to rehabilitate the destitute old in the country;

(b) whether Government have any plan to give sufficient pension to the destitute old in the country;

(c) by when Government would have adequate housing for the destitute old in the country; and

(d) the percentage of destitute old who receive pension from State and Government, separately alongwith the figures for the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE):(a) The Government is rehabilitating elderly persons through programmes such as Old Age Pension Scheme, Annapurna Scheme and Scheme of setting-up of old age homes and day care centres for the elderly.

(b) the State Governments are distributing the old age pension to the destitute old at rates determined by them.

(c) Housing is a State subject and the State Governments/agencies formulate need-based housing schemes for the benefit of older persons. Additionally, Central Government gives grants to NGOs to set up old age homes.

(d) A statement showing number of beneficiaries who received pensions under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (which has been transferred to the State plan w.e.f. 2002-03) for the year 1999-2000, 2000 and 2001-02 is enclosed (*See* below).

Details for Pension distributed by the States in addition to the above are not maintained by this Ministry.

Statement

Number of beneficiaries who received pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) for the last three years

Sl. No.	States	No. of beneficiaries Reported		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	466000	466001	466000
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2347	1205	2480
3	Assam	85052	262719	287573
4	Bihar	741195	509938	639086
5	Chhattisgarh	_	146519	140576
6	Goa	2195	2122	3270
7	Gujarat	63862	68108	62755
8	Haryana	33201	35993	50372
9	Himachal Pradesh	15176	25250	23291
10	J & K	31291	33620	1641

1	2	3	4	5
11	Jharkhand	_	175437	151990
12	Karnataka	228309	258402	183265
13	Kerala	119507	114698	141165
14	Madhya Pradesh	586400	429490	442484
15	Maharashtra	330948	319144	388597
16	Manipur	5836	25972	27354
17	Meghalaya	9102	18743	32685
18	Mizoram	4094	10523	10523
19	Nagaland	5917	18045	8106
20	Orissa	330272	384174	492366
21	Punjab	32859	40283	45265
22	Rajasthan	451325	148815	101460
23	Sikkim	2400	10104	10104
24	Tamil Nadu	399791	339481	314362
25	Tripura	15507	57912	60227
26	Uttar Pradesh	940539	841340	944758
27	Uttaranchal	—	50097	45002
28	West Bengal	350810	352016	331224
29	A & N Islands	NR	14	NR
30	Chandigarh	1763	2532	2714
31	D & N Haveli	252	895	NR
32	Daman & Diu	262	229	241
33	NCT Delhi	24156	NR	NR
34	Lakshadweep	NR	23	41